

TreeLink News Bulletin

In the works



Pin Oak

Quercus palustris

The pin oak's leaves are elliptic to obovate, to 6 inches (15 cm) long and 4.75 inches (12 cm) across, deeply lobed, glossy green on both sides, with pale tufts of brown hairs in the vein axils beneath. The bark is gray-brown and smooth. The pin oak's acorn is 5/8 inch (1.5 cm) long, 1/4 to 1/3 enclosed in a broad cup. The growth form is broadly conical and reaches heights of up to 100 feet (30 m).

-photos courtesy Allen J. Coombes



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Jennifer M. Belcher - Commissioner of Public Lands

Initiated as a WSU Cooperative Extension project in Colfax, the Urban and Community Forestry Program has gone through a lot of changes since it was founded with funding from the Cooperative Forest Management Program of the USDA Forest Service in 1978. At that time, urban forestry was such a new issue to most Washingtonians, the program had to actively seek out recipients who could make good use of the funds available. Now, the Urban and Community Forestry Program is located in Olympia with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the grant money available is only enough to cover half of the requests received each year. The state's ever-expanding population, coupled with a heightened awareness of human effects on our natural resources, assures the program demand will only increase, but in the face of uncertain federal appropriations, as well as nonexistent state funding, the need to make federal and state decision-makers aware of how important the Urban and Community Forestry Program is more vital than ever. -K.L.

Mattheck presents "The Body Language of Trees"

Instrument Mechanic Labor, Inc., is proud to present Professor Dr. Claus Mattheck in a professional seminar series on "The Body Language of Trees" in Seattle, WA, on June 11-12, 1999. Dr. Mattheck will be explaining the Visual Tree Assessment technique, hazard tree evaluation, and decay detection equipment. All seminar attendees will receive a free Stupsi book, "A Children's Book for Adults." Individuals recommended to attend include: practitioners, supervisors, managers, researchers, and administrators involved in arboriculture, forestry, landscape architecture, environmental engineering, and risk management within private and public landscapes. ISA-certified arborists will receive 6.5 CEUs for the first day and 4 CEUs for the second day. If you would like more information, visit IML's website at www.imlusa.com or call 1-888-514-8851.

Learn "6 Ways to Kill Your Tree"

PlantAmnesty, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of better pruning and gardening practices, has announced the availability of three wonderful educational tree-care brochures entitled: "5 Reasons to Stop Topping Trees," "My Tree's Too Big! and 3 Solutions," and "6 Ways to Kill Your Tree." In addition to the three brochures, PlantAmnesty also has a pamphlet dedicated solely to the preservation of trees and views, in which techniques are shown which can "make views and trees work together." PlantAmnesty rounds out their batch of good information with a two-page pamphlet describing proper tree-planting techniques. In looking at the credits on the various brochures, one quickly notices the cooperation of many different agencies and institutions such as: Seattle City Light, Puget Power, Washington State University, Washington State Urban and Community Forestry Program, and Northwest Horticultural Society. If you are interested in any of PlantAmnesty's information on tree care, pruning, topping and ordinances, write them at 906 NW 87th Street, Seattle, WA 98177, or call (206)783-9813. You can also visit PlantAmnesty at <http://www.plantamnesty.org/>.

Your Urban and Community Forestry Program

Congress and the USDA Forest Service provide the funding necessary to sustain the Urban and Community Forestry Program. Out of nearly \$40 million nationally, Washington receives roughly \$300,000 annually to support program coordination and grants to municipalities and non-profit groups. Nearly a third of the money from the Forest Service grant is given to municipalities and non-profits around the state for urban forestry projects and program development. A small percentage of the federally-appropriated money is dedicated to the Washington Community Forestry Council (WCFC), which meets six times a year to discuss the direction and focus of the Washington State Urban and Community Forestry Program. Our performance is measured annually, but only recently has the Forest Service established a system of measurement based on the number of municipalities and their progression through various stages of early development all the way through to a sustainable tree-care program. We thought it valuable for our readers to understand the Federal mandate and the definitions that we are held to, in the hopes that you will join us in our efforts. In last year's annual report to the Forest Service, Washington reported that 26% of its communities are involved in some sort of urban forestry program or project activity. This is up 4% from 1996, when we started keeping track. On June 9, in Ferndale, the WCFC Executive Advisory Committee is meeting to develop the five-year strategic plan for the Washington State Urban and Community Forestry Program. The meeting will take place at Ferndale City Hall from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 1-800-523-8733.

In the works (continued)

Tree planting is always a utopian enterprise . . . a wager on a future the planter doesn't necessarily expect to witness.

- Michael Pollan

Picks and Shovels

TRIVIA: When and where were the earliest tree planting records kept?

(answer is upside down below)

On the Horizon

The Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program is made possible with assistance from the USDA Forest Service. The program's purpose is to assist communities and nonprofit groups in building self-sustaining urban forestry and tree care programs with strong local support.

Editor: Kevin LeClair, Program Coordinator,
DNR Urban and Community Forestry
Program, P.O. Box 47037, Olympia, WA
98504-7037
www.wa.gov/dnr/base/assistance.html
Phone 1-800-523-8733
Fax (360) 902-1757



PRINTED ON RECYCLED AND RECYCLABLE PAPER

(2,200 B.C. in Egyptian tombs)

Building Cities of Green in Seattle

The 1999 National Urban Forest Conference comes to the Westin Hotel in "The Emerald City" August 31 through September 3, 1999. Washington State is the ideal location for this type of conference because it contains magnificent rivers, majestic mountains, and splendid forests, but it is also one of the the fastest urbanizing areas in the country with most, if not all, of the problems associated with growth. The big question is, "How can we maintain the natural splendor in the face of this rapid growth?" During the four-day Conference, attendees will work through some of the common problems afflicting communities around the country and learn about solutions they can put on the ground when they get home. This will be accomplished through a mixture of educational workshops, tours of local problems and solutions, and some excellent lecture panels. Some of the keynote speakers who have been invited to kick-off the Conference are Vice President Al Gore, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, and Seattle Mayor Paul Schell, to name a few. If you would like a copy of the Conference brochure and schedule, contact the TreeLink Hotline at 1-800-523-8733, and leave your name and a mailing address. The Conference's is being organized by American Forests and its present-ing sponsors are Eddie Bauer and the USDA Forest Service. For program information, visit www.americanforests.org.

A Guide to Street Tree Inventory Software. Gene A. Olig and Robert W. Miller at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point have put together a book which gives an indepth look at 13 different urban forest inventory software programs currently on the market and the companies behind them. The research was funded by the USDA Forest Service Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States. The book begins by covering the basics of choosing an inventory program, including several questions anyone should ask prior to purchasing a software package, and then describes the program evaluation procedure. Then it gives a general overview of the various software providers and the products they offer. Finally, the individual program functions are tested and discussed. Supplies are limited but you can obtain a copy by contacting Gina Childs at the USDA Forest Service Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States, 845 Chicago Ave., Suite 225, Evanston, IL 60202-2357.

A City Among the Trees is a 200-page workbook which integrates elements of urban forestry, comprehensive planning, and sustainability. It will prove to be a valuable resource for citizens planning for trees and green spaces and will foster awareness and political support for future urban forestry management. This book is a must have for anyone interested in the wonderful world of urban and community forestry. Between its covers, you will find information on topics like: urban tree benefits, planning, tree selection, planting, tree care, street and park trees, natural areas, tree preservation, and a phenomenal resource guide. Copies can be purchased from Seattle Transportation for the bargain price of \$10. Order one now. For more information, contact Liz Ellis at liz.ellis@ci.seattle.wa.us or (206) 684-5008.

June

- 6-9 Keep America Growing Conference, Balancing Working Lands and Development. Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Registration information is available at www.farmland.org/kag.html.
- 8 Hazard Tree Evaluation Workshop. Center for Urban Horticulture, UW College of Forest Resources, Seattle, WA. For more information, contact CUH at (206) 685-8033.
- 9 Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting. Ferndale, WA. 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. For more information, contact the TreeLink Hotline at 1-800-523-TREE.
- 11-12 The Body Language of Trees. Professor Dr. Claus Mattheck. Seattle, WA. Presented by IML. For more information, call 1-888-514-8851 or visit www.imlusa.com.

July

- 17 ArborMasters One-Day Seminar. Ken Palmer and Rip Tompkins demonstrate why they are two of America's best tree climbers. Spokane, WA. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Cost for ISA members is \$68 and \$85 for non-members. For more information, contact PNW-ISA at (503) 585-4285.